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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/759,424	01/12/2001	Manabu Sawasaki	1508.65123	2317
24978	7590	11/16/2004	EXAMINER	
GREER, BURNS & CRAIN 300 S WACKER DR 25TH FLOOR CHICAGO, IL 60606			NGUYEN, DUNG T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2871	

DATE MAILED: 11/16/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/759,424

Applicant(s)

SAWASAKI ET AL.

Examiner

Dung Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 August 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,8,23,32-41,54,55,57,59-61,63 and 65-69 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 54 and 55 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 23,32-41,57,59,60,63,65 and 66 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,8,61 and 67-69 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 08/23/2004 has been entered.
2. Applicants' amendment dated 07/23/2004 and 08/23/2004 have been received and entered. By the amendment, claims 1, 8, 23, 32-41, 57, 59-61, 63 and 65-69 are now pending in the application.
3. Applicant's arguments dated 07/23/2004 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection as follow:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1, 8, 61 and 67-69 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lien et al., Patent No. 6,493,050, in view of Sonoda et al., US Patent No. 6,433,852.

Regarding the above claims, Lien et al. disclose a liquid crystal display (LCD) device comprising:

. a pair of substrates (102, 104);

- . a liquid crystal layer (101);
- . color filters (106);
- . a common electrode (122);
- . cell gap adjusting spacers (spacer 108);
- . domain defining projections (114) as claimed.

Lien et al., however, do not disclose the cell gap adjusting spacers directly covered adjacent terminal edges of the color filters as well as formed over a black matrix formed on one of the pair of the substrates. Sonoda et al. do disclose spacers (SP including SP1 and SP2) directly covered adjacent terminal edges of the color filters (FIL) and a black matrix (BM) (see figures 7 and 10). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention was made to employ a spacer directly covered adjacent terminal edges of the color filters and a black matrix as shown by Len et al. in order to avoid leaking light between color filters (e.g., adjacent terminal edges of the color filters).

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 23-32-41, 57, 59-60, 63 and 65-66 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: none of prior art disclose, singly or combined, an LCD device having a plurality of spacers interposed between two substrates, wherein the spacers are formed to satisfy all condition as set forth in claims 32-33. Furthermore, pixel regions include both first pixel regions, in which a final protection film is interposed between pixel electrodes and a transparent substrate, and second pixel regions, in which the final protection film is not interposed between the pixel

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electrodes and the transparent substrate as set forth in claims 23, 32-34, 38, 57, 59-60, 63 and 65-66.

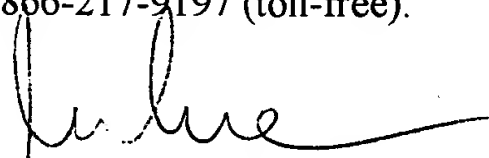
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dung Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-2297. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert H. Kim can be reached on 571-272-2293. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DN
11/15/2004



Dung Nguyen
Primary Examiner
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